

September 9, drove over the same ground as yesterday and found a flock of six, from which I shot two; also saw a flock of about thirty; they were all the same birds seen yesterday.

September 11, I drove all over the eastern burnt district again, and saw the same old birds. I also saw some new arrivals, and there are now a hundred or more domiciled in this section, a good proportion of which are *young* birds, or 'Palebellies,' and which I think came on last night in a thick fog which prevailed in the late afternoon and early evening. The wind was strong northeast this morning. I shot eleven birds to-day, ten of which were *young* birds, the *first* noted or taken this season.

September 12, I again drove over the eastern ground; all the Plovers on the island being centered there, I obtained eight birds to-day, all young. Four or five flocks of Plovers were noted passing by the northern side of Nantucket about six o'clock p. m., flying towards the southwest.

September 13, I drove again over the eastern ground and saw the same birds, and obtained one. At sundown I saw the largest flock I have observed for years, about two hundred (estimated) birds. They had just come on and were flying about seventy yards high, headed towards the west. The latter half of the flock were much inclined to stop, but every time they lowered their flight to do so, the leading half would rise up and allure them on. I drove out early on the following morning, over the western ground, without finding them. I also made inquiry regarding them. They did not stop, the wind was southwest and west. I do not think any new birds landed on these islands between September 13 and October 2. On the latter date fifteen of the domiciled birds were shot, and on the first I shot another, a young bird, which was very fat.

As far as I know, and I have made constant inquiry, but eighty-seven Golden Plovers have been taken on these islands during the entire season up to October 2. No Eskimo Curlew, *Numenius borealis*, have been seen or taken. During the season I have made inquires of three of the largest game stalls in Faneuil Hall Market, Boston; the answer was always the same, none of them had received any Golden Plovers, and but a *single* Eskimo Curlew had been brought in. I have no direct information from Martha's Vineyard or Cape Cod, Mass. — GEO. H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Unseasonable Nesting of the Ground Dove in Florida. — In a letter dated Tarpon Springs, Florida, Oct. 29, 1894, my correspondent Mr. W. S. Dickinson writes: "I find that the Ground Dove breeds in October, [collecting] in flocks from March until then. Last year I got two sets [of eggs] on the 19th of October, one on the 22d, all with small embryos; one set this year on the 15th [of October]."

This unsolicited testimony is of interest, not only confirming the previous record of the late breeding of the Ground Dove made by Mr. A. T. Wayne (*Orn. & Oöl.* 1887, p. 102), but seeming to prove that this conduct is not exceptional in southern Florida. That it is the rule in

that region would seem to be implied by Mr. Dickinson's statements, a condition of affairs strangely reversing the usual order of avian economy.

It is indeed a fair question whether this be not a case of *very early* instead of *very late*. Either way the case is a paradox.—SAMUEL N. RHOADS, *Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, Pa.*

The Passenger Pigeon in Aitkin County, Minn., with a recent Record for Northeastern Illinois.—Some facts lately furnished me by a Minnesota correspondent may be of interest in connection with the more recent movements of *Ectopistes migratorius*. Referring to the presence of the Wild Pigeon in his neighborhood the past spring, Mr. Eli La Mere, of Hickory, Aitkin County, Minnesota, writes me under date May 12, 1894, as follows: "Father saw a flock which was quite large; he says there were at least 500 of them in the flock. The boys see a pair occasionally in our sugar-bush and they seem quite tame. I think they will nest here this summer."

A subsequent letter received from him dated July 22 confirms in a measure the fact of its having bred there this spring, a single one being seen as late as the 20th of June.

The correspondent referred to in this instance is the son of a farmer-hunter at whose house the writer stopped for a number of days while visiting the State in the spring of 1893, and that the account herein given is truthful I have no reason to doubt.

Moreover the Pigeon was reported to me as being there during the time of my visit, a single individual being noticed by a timber 'cruiser,' who was perfectly familiar with the bird.

During late years the Passenger Pigeon has become extremely rare in Northeastern Illinois, at least so far as the neighborhood of Chicago is concerned. My latest record was made at Glen Ellyn on Sunday, Sept. 4, 1892. It was a young-of-the-year, very tame and unsuspecting. It was discovered in the company of some Jays and feeding about the piles of dirt recently made in excavating for the foundation of a house, well within the limits of the town, and was also observed to be picking the grain from some fresh horse-droppings, in which occupation it was harassed somewhat by the Jays. But the day, location and circumstances under which my observations were made precluded the possibility of the capture of the specimen.—BENJ. T. GAULT, *Glen Ellyn, Ill.*

The Turkey Buzzard in Plainfield, New Jersey.—A specimen of *Cathartes aura* was caught here on June 30, 1894. It is the first time the bird has been seen here. During the night of June 29 there was a heavy shower, and the bird was found sitting on a fence by the roadside the next morning, so wet that it could not fly and so was captured. I cannot find any one who has ever seen a specimen in this county.—STEPHEN A. KRAM, *Plainfield, N. J.*